



Department of the Navy
Washington, DC



United States Coast Guard
Washington, DC

NATIONAL FLEET

A Joint Navy/Coast Guard Policy Statement

CONCEPT.

The Navy and Coast Guard commit to shared purpose and common effort focused on tailored operational integration of our multi-mission platforms, infrastructure and personnel. This synergy will allow us to meet the entire spectrum of America's twenty-first century maritime security responsibilities, from the homeland to the global domain. While we remain separate Services, we recognize that full cooperation and integration of our non-redundant and complementary capabilities must be achieved. This will ensure the highest level of maritime capabilities and readiness for the nation's investment. We describe the process that synchronizes research and development, planning, fiscal stewardship, procurement, development of doctrine, training, and execution of operations as the National Fleet. The result will serve as a force multiplier, as it will allow each Service to leverage the assets of the other by providing unique capabilities for specific missions and an increased capability during surge or high optempo situations.

BACKGROUND.

Challenges to our sovereignty and maritime security mandated the formation of our respective Services in the early years after the founding of the Republic; the challenges grow more diverse and complex each year. Regional conflict, crisis response, sanctions enforcement, arms trafficking, weapons proliferation, illegal mass migration, smuggling, natural resource depletion, force protection, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism are just some of the growing challenges we face in maritime security. As discussed in Joint Vision 2020, "the complexities of the future security environment demand that the United States be prepared to face a wide range of threats of varying levels of intensity. Success in countering these threats will require the skillful integration of the core competencies of the Services into a joint force tailored to the specific situations and objectives." The Navy and Coast Guard must be able to deploy forces with greater agility, adaptability, and affordability across the full spectrum of conflict. A joint and interoperable maritime force is needed to establish the numerical sufficiency required for effective global operations.

Our long history of successful cooperation at sea establishes a clear basis to build upon our relationship as we develop a new course for the future. Recent examples of this cooperation include response to the Haiti-Cuba mass migrations in 1993-94, support of the TWA Flight 800 salvage operations, expeditionary force protection in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on USS COLE, Arabian Gulf UN embargo operations, response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, and ongoing peacetime engagement and counter-narcotics operations. In support of the Coast Guard's counter-narcotics and homeland security missions, the Navy brings essential communications, intelligence, surveillance, detection and sea control capabilities. In the Navy's peacetime engagement, maritime interception operations, and force protection missions, the Coast Guard provides platforms and personnel with expertise and proficiency in maritime law enforcement, waterways management, natural resources protection, port security, and maritime environmental response and protection. In intelligence and humanitarian support operations, the Services support each other with a common dedication and complementary skill sets that are force multipliers for the nation. Our joint operational experience suggests that there are opportunities to attain greater efficiencies and achieve increasingly effective operational outcomes by pursuing integrated strategies. As partners in maritime security and in the interest of fiscal responsibility, we should consistently pursue complementary and interoperable approaches wherever appropriate and as permitted under existing statutory authority.

ATTRIBUTES.

The National Fleet has three main attributes. First, the Fleet is comprised of ships, boats, aircraft and shore Command and Control nodes that are affordable, adaptable, interoperable, and with complementary capabilities. Second these forces will be designed, wherever possible, around common equipment and systems, and include coordinated operational planning, training and logistics. Third, the National Fleet will be capable of supporting the broad spectrum of national security requirements, from power projection to security and defense of the homeland. The Navy's contribution will be highly capable, multi-mission ships, submarines, and aircraft, as well as Naval Coastal Warfare, Naval Special Warfare and C4ISR assets designed for the full spectrum of naval operations, from peacetime engagement through Global War. The Coast Guard's contribution will be statutory authorities, multi-mission cutters, boats, aircraft, and C4ISR as well as law enforcement and environmental response teams designed for the full spectrum of Coast Guard missions, including maritime security operations, crisis response, and filling the requirements for general purpose warships mandated by Combatant Commander theater plans. The Coast Guard will also provide Port Security Units and personnel to support the Naval Coastal Warfare mission area. All ships, boats, aircraft, and shore Command and Control nodes of the National Fleet will be interoperable to provide force depth for peacetime missions, homeland security, crisis response, and wartime tasks.

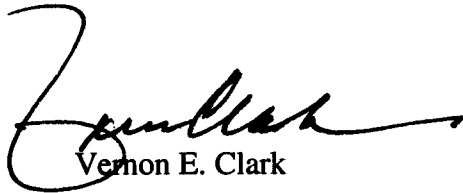
NATIONAL FLEET BUDGETING PROCESS

The Coast Guard and Navy funding and programming initiatives require a level of mutual understanding to ensure that both Services are adequately funded to carry out their missions. Areas subject to this understanding include operating expenses, acquisitions, equipment maintenance funds, active and reserve training funds, sea service compensation issues and specific supplemental funds for contingency operations. Coast Guard and Navy resource

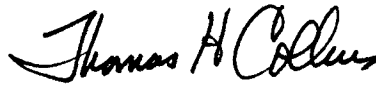
managers will consider the objectives of the National Fleet during budget preparation in areas that mutually support and complement each Service's roles and missions.

POLICY.

The Navy and Coast Guard, under the leadership of the Navy-Coast Guard Board (NAVGARD Board), will work together to plan and build a National Fleet of multi-mission assets, personnel resources and shore Command and Control nodes to optimize our effectiveness across all naval and maritime missions. The Navy and Coast Guard will coordinate, to the extent permitted under existing statutory authority, research and development, acquisitions, information systems integration, resourcing, force planning, as well as integrated concepts of operations, intelligence, logistics, training, exercises, and deployments. The Coast Guard and Navy will work together to plan, acquire and maintain forces that mutually support and complement each Service's roles and missions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Clark", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vernon E. Clark
Chief of Naval Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas H. Collins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas H. Collins
Commandant of the Coast Guard

Dated: 8 JULY 2002